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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

PHOTO

C O N T E S T

Official Rules

Submit your best photos that fit the theme,
"What a Wonderful World"
for a chance to win an Amazon Gift Card.

Prizes are awarded to the top three (3) winners in each category.

First Place: \$500 Amazon Gift Card

Second Place: \$400 Amazon Gift Card

Third Place: \$200 Amazon Gift Card

Entries accepted July 1-31, 2021

Submit entries online:

<https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com>

Categories for Youth and Adults



Submission Dates and Times

Submissions will be accepted online at <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com> beginning at 12:01 a.m. CST, July 1, 2021 and ending at 11:59 p.m. CST, July 31, 2021.

NOTE: Entrants are responsible for determining the corresponding time zone in their respective geographical area.

Submission Link

Submissions will ONLY be accepted online at <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com>



Theme

2021 Air Force Photo Contest theme is **“What a Wonderful World!”** During this last year of uncertainty and changing times we find that we may see things through a different lens. You may find joy, happiness and a new appreciation in the beauty around you; it could be as simple as your back yard, your pets, exploring old places you haven’t been in a while or maybe a new place. It could be connecting with family and friends, the birth of a new child, or maybe that much needed vacation that you finally got to go on. As our world begins to open up again, we invite you to share **“What a Wonderful World”** that you see!

How to Enter

No purchase necessary to enter or win. To enter the contest, visit:
<https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com>

Entries submitted via any other means will not be accepted. Entries must adhere to these official rules.

Eligibility

- Authorized patrons of Air Force Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Programs (IAW AFI 34- 101, Air Force Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Programs and use Eligibility) are eligible to participate in Air Force Services Center (AFSVC) contests.
- Entrants in Adult Novice and Accomplished categories must be 18 years of age at the time of entry.
- Entrants in Youth categories must meet the following age requirements:
 - Child: Ages 6 to 8
 - Pre-Teen: Ages 9 to 12
 - Teen: Ages 13-17
- Entries in Youth categories must be submitted on behalf of the photographer by a legal parent or guardian.
- Force Support Squadron (FSS) Commanders, Civilian Leaders, and FSS marketing personnel may enter the contest, but are NOT eligible to win prizes.
- Prizes will be awarded to eligible participants.
- Failure to meet eligibility or submission requirements will render the submission ineligible.
- Photos are eligible in one category i.e., submitting the same photo in more than one category is not permitted.

Photograph and File Size Requirements

- Photographs must be submitted as JPG or JPEG files
- Must be 300 dpi when saved at approximately 8.5" x 11" (approximately 2400 x 3600 pixels)
- Files may not exceed 9MG in size

Categories

- Adult Novice: Individuals 18 years or older, who are new or inexperienced in the field of photography.
- Adult Accomplished: Individuals 18 years or older who have higher photographic skill levels obtained through experience, professional or academic training, or who are self-taught, serious hobbyists, or operate as professional photographers.
- Youth Child: Ages 6 to 8 years old*
- Youth Pre-Teen: Ages 9 to 12 years old*
- Youth Teen: Ages 13 to 17 years old*

*Submissions in the Youth Category must be made by the legal parent or guardian of the minor photographer.

NOTE: Photographers may submit two original photographs, however only one prize will be awarded per entrant.

Prizes and Winner Notification

Winners will be notified via the email address provided during the submission process. Winners must respond via email within five calendar days of notification. An alternate winner will be chosen if communication is not received within five calendar days of notification.

- Prizes are awarded to the top three (3) winners in each category.
First Place: \$500 Amazon Gift Card
- Second Place: \$400 Amazon Gift Card Third Place: \$200 Amazon Gift Card
- Prizes will be presented to the winners by their installation point of contact.
- Youth Prize winners must have a legal parent or guardian accompany them to receive prizes.
- One prize per entrant.
- Winners must comply with all terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules.

Judging

A panel of photo experts will evaluate each entrant's photo submission based on the following criteria: Impact, Creativity and Technical Excellence as defined by the Professional Photographers of America's International Photographic Competitions Committee. Determinations made by judges are final and binding.

- **Impact:** Viewing an image for the first time always evokes a feeling. Sometimes images make us sad, happy or angry. Sometimes they force us to look inward at ourselves. That's called impact, and the more powerful the image, the more powerful the emotional response of the viewer.

- **Creativity:** Your point of view is exactly that– yours. And it's unlike anyone else's. This element speaks directly to that perspective. It shows your imagination and how you used the medium to convey an idea, a message or a thought to the viewer. This is how you differentiate yourself from others.
- **Technical Excellence:** This is the print quality of the actual image itself as it's presented for viewing. There are a lot of aspects that speak to the qualities of the physical print.

These can include:

- Retouching
- Manipulation
- Sharpness
- Exposure
- Printing
- Mounting
- Color correction

There is no requirement to be a professional photographer when entering the Air Force Photo Contest; however Air Force Arts and Crafts strives to help photographers improve their skills. While your image will be judged on Impact, Creativity and Technical Excellence you should consider the following tips for creating superior photographs. After reviewing the list we feel confident you'll begin your image capture process with more thought, thus making you a better image creator.

While every image will have traces of some of these elements, only the best have them all.

- **Style:** There are many ways to apply this element to your work. Perhaps you use light in a specific way, or you make a technical decision for the express purpose of creating impact.
- **When subject matter and style come together,** the effects on an image can be spectacular. But remember, when subject matter and style don't work together, the results can be less than spectacular.
- **Composition:** When the visual elements of an image come together to express intent, compositional magic happens. Good composition captures a viewer's attention and directs it where the artist, wants it to be. Depending on the intent, you can make something that pleases the viewer or disturbs them.
- **Presentation:** How you showcase an image is just as important as how you compose it. Everything in the presentation should work to enhance your image and not distract from it. Keep this in mind when choosing mats, borders and everything in between.
- **Color Balance:** Proper color balance can bring a sense of harmony to an image. When the tones all work together to support an image, the emotional appeal is that much greater. Color balance doesn't have to be used to bring harmony to an image. Color balance can be used to evoke any number of feelings from a viewer. The choice in how to take advantage is entirely up to you, but no matter what, be sure your choice enhances rather than distracts.

- **Center of Interest:** This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. Sometimes there can be a primary and a secondary center of interest. Sometimes everything in an image will work together to create that center of interest.
- **Lighting:** The use and control of light has an effect on every aspect of an image. It informs dimensions and shape, it sets tone and mood, and, like every other technique, proper lighting can be used to enhance your image while improper lighting can detract from it.
- **Subject Matter:** Even though it lacks words, your image is still telling a story, and your subject matter is central to that. So make sure that your subject matter is right for the story that you're trying to tell.
- **Technique:** How you choose to execute your image is key. It's also a holistic decision. Technique informs everything in the creation of your image. From lighting and posing to printing and presentation, it all works to show off the techniques that you've mastered and applied to your craft.
- **Story Telling:** What does your image evoke in a viewer's imagination? What do you want your image to evoke in a viewer's imagination?

Keep in mind: You are creating art. And while the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Your image is a story, and the one it tells your viewer may be one you never knew you were telling.

Photograph Submission Requirements

By submitting an entry in the contest, regardless of country of entry, each entrant represents and warrants that his or her photograph(s) conform to these Official Rules and meet the following criteria.

1. Submissions must be the original work of the entrant.
2. Photographs eligible for submission must have been made between July 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021.
3. Photographs must convey the theme, "What a Wonderful World!"
4. Submitted photographs may not have won a previous contest.
5. Photographs must be submitted as JPG or JPEG files, and must be 300 dpi when saved at approximately 8.5" x 11" (approximately 2400 x 3600 pixels). Files may not exceed 9MG in size.
6. Participants may enter up to two images. However, only one prize will be awarded per entrant.
7. Photographs may only be submitted in one contest category.
8. Photographs may not bear watermarks, logos, signatures or markings of any kind.
9. Photographs may be cropped.
10. Photographs may only be minimally processed. Composite or otherwise extensively enhanced or altered photos will not be accepted. Judges may disqualify a photograph that is determined to exceed the minimal processing standards or appears to have been altered.
11. Photographs must have a title. "Untitled" is not acceptable.
12. Each submission must have an accompanying caption that tells the story of the image and how it was made. 1.

13. By submitting, the entrant is guaranteeing that he/she holds the rights to everything in the image, and that it does not contain any copyright protected material that would require the consent of any third party; and does not violate any copyright, trademark, publicity right, or any other right of any third party.
14. Photographs that include sculptures, statues, paintings, and other works of art will be accepted as long as they do not constitute copyright infringement or fraud. When photographing the work of others, it must be as an object in its environment and not a full-frame close-up of another person's art. – shouldn't this be "photography" instead of "art?"
15. Photographs must not be obscene or libelous, must not contain defamatory or derogatory remarks, must not use inappropriate language or slang, and must not violate any rights of any third party. Any submission violating these guidelines will be disqualified from the competition.
16. Photographs must not contain content, element or material that violates a third party's intellectual property rights, including, but not limited to copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, logos, contract and licensing rights, rights of publicity or privacy, moral rights, or any other intellectual property rights.
17. Photographers and/or parents or legal guardians are solely responsible for obtaining proper releases for photographs which contain material or elements that are not owned by the entrant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, and/or if any persons appear in the photograph, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission or the photograph, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the exhibition and use of the photograph in the manner set forth in these rules without additional compensation.

18. If any person appearing in any photograph is under the age of eighteen, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required for each release.
19. Photographs must not be subject to any third party agreements which may require AFSVC to pay any sum of money to any person or entity as a result of its use or exploitation of the photographs or rights therein.
20. AFSVC reserves the right to request proof that the image submitted is an original work. Non-compliance with this rule will result in disqualification of the entry.
21. The entrant will hold AFSVC harmless for unauthorized use of photographs by third parties.
22. Submissions may be used without restriction by AFSVC, including without limitation, rights to use images in digital, social, broadcast, and printed media for the purposes of advertising, publicity and promotion. AFSVC reserves the right to modify images.

Release Statement

Limitation of Liability: By entering the Air Force Photo Contest, all entrants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless the Air Force Services Center (AFSVC) and its partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, agents and their employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in the Air Force Photo Contest or any contest-related activities and the acceptance and use, misuse, or possession of any prize awarded hereunder.

The entrant is responsible for ensuring submissions are received by the specified deadline. AFSVC is not responsible for the condition, delivery, or non-delivery of any submission or communication regardless of the cause or type of error be it human, electronic, virtual, technical, or mechanical.

Disqualification: AFSVC reserves the right to disqualify any entry submission for any reason at its sole absolute discretion. The decisions of AFSVC with regard to the entrant eligibility, disqualification and determination of winners shall be final and binding.

Privacy Act Statement: Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) Purpose: To contact winners participating in web contests featured on <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com> and to add to the AFSVC and FSS customer databases for email notification of events, activities, and information. Routine Uses: This information will not be disclosed outside DoD. Disclosure/Effects: Disclosure is voluntary; however, entrant cannot participate in this contest without providing the contact information requested.

The winner must comply with all terms and conditions set forth in these official rules.